

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2081

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

USDAO/SAIGON PRIORITY

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI PRIORITY

COMSUKOREA PRIORITY

COMUSTDC TAIPEI TW

COMUSFORJAPAN FUCHU AS JAPAN PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

CHMAAG TAIPEI TW PRIORITY

CDR 327 AD TAIPEI AS TW PRIORITY

COMUSPHIL PRIORITY

S E C R E T TAIPEI 3783

E.O. 11652: GGDS

TAGS: MARR, TW

SUBJECT: F-4 WITHDRAWAL: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

REF: A) TAIPEI 3695, B) STATE 124414

1. FOLLOWING IS AGREED TEXT OF F-4 WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH GROC INTENDS TO RELEASE MONDAY, JUNE 17. WE WILL CONFIRM WHEN GROC ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE. IN THE INTERIM, THERE SHOULD BE NO REPEAT NO STATEMENT FROM THE U.S. SIDE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES

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GOVERNMENT IN NOVEMBER 1972, A NUMBER OF FIGHTER PLANES

OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WERE LOANED TO THE UNITED STATES TO MEET ITS EMERGENCY NEEDS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH SIDES, THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE STATIONED F-4 AIRCRAFT ON TAIWAN TO FILL THE GAP IN THE AIR DEFENSE OF TAIWAN. AS THE BORROWED FIGHTER AIRPLANES ARE NOW BEING REPLACED, THE UNITED STATES F-4 AIRCRAFT, ACCORDING TO AGREEMENT, WILL BE SUCCESSIVELY WITHDRAWN FROM TAIWAN IN DUE TIME." END TEXT.

3. U.S. COMMENT SHOULD BE MINIMIZED BECAUSE OF GROC SENSITIVITIES (SEE PARA 4 BELOW). WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING QUESTIONS/ANSWERS FOR USE BY DOD AND CINCPAC SPOKESMEN IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES ONLY, FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION THAT GROC HAS RELEASED ANNOUNCEMENT:

Q: ARE THE F-4 SQUADRONS ON TAIWAN BEING WITHDRAWN?

A: AS THE STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE GROC INDICATED, THE U.S. F-4'S ON TEMPORARY DUTY IN TAIWAN WILL BE WITHDRAWN IN DUE TIME.

Q: WHEN WILL THE AIRCRAFT BE WITHDRAWN?

A: I CANNOT DISCUSS FUTURE OPERATIONAL MOVES OF U.S. UNITS. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT THAT THE MOVES WILL BEGIN SOON AND BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR.

Q: WHY WERE THE F-4'S SENT TO TAIWAN?

A: THE F-4'S WERE SENT TEMPORARILY TO TAIWAN TO FILL AN AIRDEFENSE GAP RESULTING FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S LOAN OF F-5 AIRCRAFT TO THE U.S. IN NOVEMBER 1972 FOR TRANSFER TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

Q: WHY ARE THE F-4'S NO LONGER NEEDED?

A: UNDER THE UNDERSTANDING IN WHICH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA LOANED THE AIRCRAFT, THE U.S. AGREED TO STATION
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U.S. F-4 AIRCRAFT IN TAIWAN UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE LOANED AIRCRAFT COULD BE RETURNED OR REPLACED. THAT PAYBACK IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SHORTLY.

Q: WHAT TYPE AIRCRAFT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AS PAYBACK?

A: F-5 AIRCRAFT WILL BE USED FOR THE PAYBACK.

Q: WILL THE NEWER F5-E MODELS BE INCLUDED IN THE PAYBACK?

A: THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE BOTH F-5A AND THE NEWER F-5E AIRCRAFT IN ITS PAYBACK TO THE ROC.

Q: IS THE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE PLANES RELATED IN ANY WAY TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE OF 1972?

A: THE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE PLANES IS RELATED TO AN UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN NOVEMBER 1972 BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THAT UNDERSTANDING SPECIFIED THAT THE F-4'S WOULD BE WITHDRAWN WHEN THE AIRCRAFT LOANED BY THE ROC TO THE U.S. WERE EITHER RETURNED OR REPLACED.

Q: HOW MANY MEN AND PLANES ARE INVOLVED IN THIS WITHDRAWAL?

A: THERE ARE TWO F-4 SQUADRONS ON TAIWAN; ONE WILL BE WITHDRAWN SOON, AND THE OTHER AT A LATER TIME. A NORMAL F-4 SQUADRON HAS 18-24 AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 730 MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF THE TWO SQUADRONS. IN ADDITION, SUPPORT PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE PROGRESSIVELY REDUCED AS THE F-4 WITHDRAWALS TAKE PLACE. (COMMENT: PARA 3 OF REF B REFERS TO A REDUCTION OF U.S. TROOP STRENGTH ON TAIWAN FROM 5,000 TO 3,000 WITH THE F-4 REDEPLOYMENT. WE BELIEVE IT PREMATURE TO USE THE SPECIFIC FIGURE 2,000 TO DESCRIBE TOTAL F-4 RELATED WITHDRAWALS, AND RECOMMEND THAT SPOKESMAN GO NO FURTHER THAN FORMULATION GIVEN ABOVE.)

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Q: HOW MANY US MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO TAIWAN?

A: THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 5,000 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL PRESENTLY ASSIGNED DUTY IN TAIWAN (NOTE: THIS FIGURE WILL BE DECREASED ACCORDINGLY AS THE AFFECTED UNITS WITHDRAW).

Q: WHERE ARE THE F-4 SQUADRONS CURRENTLY LOCATED?

A: AT CHING CHUAN KANG (CCK) AIR BASE, TAIWAN.

Q: WHERE WILL THEY GO WHEN THEY ARE WITHDRAWN?

A: THEY WILL RETURN TO THEIR H

BE BASES, CLARK AND
KADENA.

4. GROC IS SENSITIVE ABOUT PUBLIC RELEASE OF NUMBERS
AND TYPES OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION.
PREMIER UNDERSTANDS THAT DOD ANC CINCPAC SPOKESMAN
WILL LIKELY BE QUERIED ON SPECIFIC TYPES OF AIRCRAFT
BEING PAID BACK TO THE ROC (I.E., F-5A'S, F-5E'S),
AND THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO AVOID
RESPONDING. HOWEVER, HE HOPES THAT AS LITTLE AS
POSSIBLE WILL BE SAID ON SUBJECT.

5. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, WE WISH PRESS QUERIES
TO BE HANDLED IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN HERE. HOW-
EVER, TDC PAO WILL, AS NECESSARY, RESPOND TO LOCAL
PRESS QUERIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ABOVE
Q AND A'S.
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